

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device comprising:
 - an intra-vaginal insertion member;
 - a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;
 - means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;
 - a textured flexible mesh covering the absorbent member for:
 - retaining the shape and limiting swelling of the absorbent member in response to the absorbent member becoming wetted by vaginal fluids;
 - capturing cells residing in the vaginal fluids; and
 - passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
 - means for retrieving the absorbent member.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the mesh is molded onto the absorbent member.
4. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the mesh is a molded portion of the absorbent member.
5. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the mesh is a sleeve applied to the absorbent member.

6. (Currently Amended) A kit for self-administered intra-vaginal cell collection comprising:

a container including:

an intra-vaginal insertion member;

a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;

means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;

a textured flexible mesh covering the absorbent member for:

retaining the shape and limiting swelling of the absorbent member in response to the absorbent member becoming wetted by vaginal fluids;

capturing cells residing in the vaginal fluids; and

passing the cells to the absorbent member; and

means for retrieving the absorbent member.

7. (Previously Presented) The kit as defined in claim 21 further comprising:

a shipping package for shipping the container and an enclosed form to a test facility.

8. (Currently Amended) An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device comprising:

an intra-vaginal insertion member;

a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;

means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;

a mesh of open texture, ~~with evenly spaced small holes~~, covering the absorbent member for:

retaining the shape and limiting swelling of the absorbent member
in response to the absorbent member becoming wetted by vaginal fluids;
capturing cells residing in the vaginal fluids; and
passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
means for retrieving the absorbent member.